

REGULAR SESSION RUSH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FEBRUARY 24, 2014

The Rush County Board of Commissioners met in regular session, Monday, February 24, 2014 with Commissioners Bruce Levi, Mark Bacon, Ken Masters and Mary Ann Beard, Auditor in attendance. Leigh Morning, County Attorney was absent.

Commissioner Bruce Levi called the meeting to order. Minutes of the February 10th meeting were approved on a motion by Mark Bacon with Bruce Levi seconding the motion.

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

Representatives from the Department of Child Services received permission to hold a celebration on the courthouse lawn and the first floor of the courthouse on April 8th at 7:30 p.m. Ken Masters moved to approved with Mark Bacon seconding the motion.

CLERK

Debbie Richardson, Clerk stated that the county election board had held a public hearing requesting the number of polling places in the county be reduced to nine. Mark Bacon moved to sign the consolidation of precincts. Ken Masters seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ROAD CLOSED

Zeta Tau Sorority represented by Dana Fusser received a road closing for CR 125W on May 11th for a 5K run on a motion by Mark Bacon, seconded by Ken Masters.

ANDERSON TWP

Becky Puckett representing Anderson Township Volunteer Fire Department reported that the department had responded to 13 runs and missed 1 run. Commissioner Bacon had attended the fire meeting and is impressed with the progress.

AUDITOR VACANCY

Auditor, Mary Ann Beard asked permission to fill a vacancy to replace the payroll clerk that has tenured her resignation. Ken Masters moved to allow the hiring. Mark Bacon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

PIONEER TIF

Attorney Jim Shanahan explained that Pioneer/DuPont has requested that city water and fiber optics be provided to the facility. The assessed value of the newly constructed Pioneer building could be captured if a TIF district is established. To make this possible a Declaratory Resolution extending the authority of the Rushville Redevelopment Commission to act on behalf of the County must be enacted by March 1st. Shanahan confirmed that the TIF would encompass only the parcel occupied by Pioneer and that bonds to fund the project will not effect the county's capability of bonding for county projects. The County Council had granted an abatement of the building in the proposed TIF which Mr. Shanahan shared that the company

may forgo the abatement and perhaps even purchase the TIF bonds. Many questions were offered by those in attendance including Pioneer's ability to expand, should the taxpayers be funding a private entity with no plans of expansion or no job creation, will this project mean annexation, and why hasn't Pioneer communicated with the county on the needs for an improved water supply?

Upon taking public comment, Commissioner Levi called for a ten minute recess to reconvene at 10:15. Mark Bacon made the motion to allow the recess with Ken Masters seconding the motion.

Calling the meeting back to order Levi stated that a business as good as Pioneer deserves to be heard and while trying to meet the needs of the county he will continue this dialogue on Thursday, at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners room and asked the Auditor to advertise this to be a joint meeting with the County Council.

EMA

EMA director Chuck Kemker presented a Mitigation Plan for \$16,640. The county's share is \$4,160 which will be provided by in-kind contributions. Ken Masters moved to proceed and Mark Bacon seconded the action. Motion carried.

Kemker reported high water and storm damage from the storm on February 20th. It was confirmed that a F0 tornado touched down in the area of 300N near Arlington. Two thousand people were without power and a shelter was provided at Rush/Shelby Energy.

HIGHWAY

Superintendent Jerry Sitton was granted permission to hire James Keal as a new driver. Ken Masters moved to approve with Mark Bacon offering a second. Sitton reported that it will cost \$2,500 to replace a head gasket on a 2003 extended cab truck with a book value of \$4,500. A 2014 replacement with trade-in is \$34,000 at Hubler, and \$29,500 at Russ Delon. Ken Masters moved to allow the purchase of a new truck from Russ Delon. Mark Bacon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

SHERIFF

Sheriff Jeff Sherwood reported 40 inmates in the county jail. Sherwood stated that he is working on the plan to add surveillance cameras to our security system.

AUDITOR

- Reappointment of Marc Houston to the wage board was made on a motion by Ken Masters with Mark Bacon seconding the motion.
- A letter to Apex confirming our intent to exclude retirees from our health care plan was signed. Motion by Mark Bacon. Seconded by Ken Masters.
- EMS report from Carthage and Anderson Township were reviewed.

Mark Bacon moved to sign claims. Ken Masters seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Payroll was approved on a motion by Ken Masters. Mark Bacon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Ken Master moved to recess until Thursday, February 27th at 9:00a.m. Mark Bacon seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

The Rush County Board of Commissioners reconvened the meeting of February 27, 2014 with Commissioners Bruce Levi, Ken Masters and Mary Ann Beard, Auditor and Leigh Morning, County Attorney in attendance. Also attending were County Council members Gerald Mohr, Warren Norris, Charles Smith, Janet Kile, and Kevin Spilman. Absent were Mark Bacon, Marvin Hedrick and Jerry Kent.

Commissioner Bruce Levi opened the floor.

Dr John Williams- representing Rush County Schools

Dr. Williams stated that he recognizes the need for growth but stated that with the implantation of tax caps, the uncertainty of personal property business tax and the transportation fund on the decline the schools would be better without this TIF. Williams shared that Mays School had dealt with a problem of arsenic in their wells and remedied the situation with a moderately priced filtering system.

John McCane-ECDC director and Rushville Redevelopment Commissioner member presented a handout explaining the following topics: Chronology of Pioneer Water Extension Discussion; Why This Project is Important; what this Project Does and Does Not Do and a letter dated February 7, 2014 from Terry Garner, Production Director at Pioneer/DuPont requesting a water supply and access to fiber optics.

Commissioner Levi then stated that he felt the county had shirked their responsibilities and that the county needs to form its own Redevelopment Commission. Questioning the County Councilmen, the consensus was that the county should have its own commission although with little knowledge and little time it will be difficult to accomplish its formation in a short time.

Attorney Leigh Morning explained that the Commissioners would have three appointments and the Council would have two with the school system to have one non-voting member. All members would need to be bonded. The new commission would be responsible for all county TIF districts. Their charges would include bonding and contracting for projects and overseeing the TIF revenues.

Commissioner Bruce Levi allowed comments from the floor and then stated that he does not want to miss an opportunity to grow assessed value. Although Pioneer did not have a representative present and they do not intend to purchase the bonds for this project, the company does use a point system for future expansion and we need to be mindful of future

growth. Commissioner Levi then made the motion to sign the Declaratory Resolution to appoint Rushville City Redevelopment Commission to represent Rush County in establishing the Pioneer TIF district. Ken Masters stated that he feels like the county is being forced into forming our own redevelopment district but he will approve this step and second the motion. Motion carried.

The council was instructed to name their appointments to the redevelopment commission at the next meeting.

AUDITOR

- The auditor received permission from the County Council to advertise for a replacement position in the auditor's office. Motion was made by Charles Smith and seconded by Warren Norris. Motion carried.
- A new signature document for Indiana Public Retirement System was signed by Commissioner Levi on a motion by Ken Masters and seconded by Bruce Levi.

Motion to adjourn was offered by Charles Smith. Ken Masters seconded the motion. Motion carried.

/s/ Bruce Levi
Bruce Levi, Chairman

/s/ Mark Bacon
Mark Bacon

/s/ Ken Masters
Ken Masters

/s/ Gerald Mohr
Gerald Mohr, Chairman

/s/ Warren Norris
Warren Norris

Absent on 3-12
Charles Smith

/s/ Janet Kile
Janet Kile

Absent on 2-24
Marvin Hedrick

Absent on 3-12
Kevin Spilman

Absent on 2-24
Jerry Kent

ATTEST:

/s/ Mary Ann Beard
Mary Ann Beard, Auditor